

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4371

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, RP, CH

SUBJECT: FOCUS ON CHINESE ALIENS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A) HONG KONG 6435 B) MANILA 7890 C) MANILA A-136

BEGIN SUMMARY: GONVERNMENT-GUIDED PUBLICITY OF MARCOS VISIT TO CHINA SLACKENED SLIGHTLY JUNE 11 AS MEDIA FOCUSSED ON RELATED ISSUES SUCH AS TERMINATION OF TIES WITH TAIWAN AND ACCELERATION OF CAMPAIGN TO NATURALIZE NON-CITIZEN CHINESE. THIS CAMPAIGN APPEARS TO BE GOING WELL. GOVERNMENT AND INFORMED OBSERVERS HOPEFUL THAT MAJORITY OF 150,000-200,000 NON-CITIZENS WILL EVENTUALLY BE COVERED. IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE HAS BEEN UNDERLINED BY GOP-PRC COMMUNIQUE, WHICH GUARANTEES MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF NATURALIZATION BUT (IN CONTRAST
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TO MALAYSIAN COMMUNIQUE) SAYS NOTHING ABOUT PRC PROTECTING

POWERS OVER INDIVIDUALS WHO REMAIN CHINESE OR STATELESS.
END SUMMARY.

1. PUBLICITY OF MARCOS IN CHINA HAS SLACKENED SLIGHTLY PRIOR TO WHAT NO DOUBT WILL BE GRAND FINALE WHEN HE RETURNS. IN MEANTIME GOVERNMENT-GUIDED MEDIA HAVE FOCUSED ON TWO RELATED TARGETS, TERMINATION OF DE JURE RELATIONS WITH GROG (REPORTED SEPTEL) AND ACCELERATION OF CAMPAIGN TO NATURALIZE APPROXIMATELY 150-200,000 CHINESE ALIENS UNDER LIBERALIZED PROCEDURES ANNOUNCED LAST APRIL.

2. GOP HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED SEVERAL STEPS TO INSURE THAT NATURALIZATION DRIVE IS A SUCCESS. FIRST, TIME FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS WAS EXTENDED TO JULY 15. SECOND, SOME 1,785 WELL-ENTRENCHED ILLEGAL ENTRANTS (THE SO-CALLED "OVERSTAYING CHINESE") HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS AND MAY NOW APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP. THIRD, GOP HAS SPECIFIED THAT ALIEN STUDENTS STILL IN COLLEGE ARE WELCOME TO APPLY, EVEN THOUGH THEY NOT BE IMMEDIATELY ABLE TO SATISFY "SUFFICIENT INCOME" REQUIREMENT OF NEW PROCEDURE. FOURTH, DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS HAS AGAIN BEEN EXTENDED, THIS TIME FROM JUNE 11 TO JUNE 30.

3. ACCORDING LATEST FIGURES RELEASED BY GOVERNMENT MORE THAN 32,000 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED AND SOME 13,500 RETURNED WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION. NO ONE KNOWS WHAT PERCENTAGE OF ALIEN COMMUNITY COVERED BY THESE STATISTICS BECAUSE EXACT NUMBER OF ALIENS UNKNOWN AND SINCE MANY WOULD-BE CITIZENS ARE APPLYING ON BEHALF OF FAMILIES HOWEVER, GOP IS HOPEFUL THAT A GREAT MAJORITY OF ALIEN CHINESE WILL BE COVERED. JESUIT SPONSORED PRO-ASSIMILATION ORGANIZATION "UNITY FOR PROGRESS" HAS PREDICTED THAT 95 PCT WILL BE COVERED. (WHILE "UNITY" STAFFERS' EXPERTISE ON THIS SUBJECT SECOND TO NONE, ESTIMATE UNDOUBTEDLY ERRS ON SIDE OF OPTIMISM SINCE "UNITY" IS TRYING TO GENERATE A BANDWAGON EFFECT AMONG SUSPICIOUS NON-APPLICANTS WHO STILL FEAR THAT ANYTHING GOVERNMENT PROPOSES MUST INEVITABLY BE ANOTHER SCHEME TO EXTRACT PAYOFFS FROM THEM).

4. COMMENT: URGENCY OF NATURALIZATION DRIVE UNDERLINED
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BY ARTICLE IV OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH SPECIFIES THAT NATURALIZED CITIZENS FORFEIT OLD (CHINESE) CITIZENSHIP, BUT (IN CONTRAST TO MALAYSIAN COMMUNIQUE) SAYS NOTHING WHATEVER ABOUT PRC PROTECTING POWERS OVER THOSE WHO REMAIN CHINESE OR "STATELESS". CLEARLY, GOP IS HOPING THAT ALIEN PROBLEM WILL BE LARGELY ELIMINATED THROUGH PRESENT NATURALIZATION PROCESS. WHILE PROCESS HAS NOT BEEN FREE FROM INEFFICIENCY AND GRAFT, IT APPEARS AS OF

NOW THAT GOVERNMENT'S OPTIMISM MAY BE WARRENTED.
PURNELL

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